

GRACELINES

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MUSIC NOTES

For many people the month of October brings associations of fall, pumpkins, and costumes. For Lutherans we could probably throw in 95 theses and the Reformation. We could probably also throw in Oktoberfest! Could we do a field trip to Munich? Seriously, though, there are many associations with the month. Few of them have direct relationships to our faith life (other than Reformation, which has many relationships with our faith life). But if we look, all of them have something to do with God's love for us and His continuing care for His creation – including us!

The cooler weather, including leaves that change color, pumpkins, and other harvest themes, are all reminders that God created a good creation and that the cycles He established continue. He continues to care for us by providing crops – food to eat! If you've ever been to an Oktoberfest celebration the food is certainly a big part of it! The fun and fellowship are gifts from God as well. It is only when we overindulge in God's good gifts that we have a problem.

The whole idea of costumes and Halloween is more problematic in today's world. The celebration known as Halloween clearly has non-Christian influences. But so do Christmas and Easter. Satan is always trying to distract people from the truth. In the celebration of Halloween he seems to have had more success. But the early church had a habit of taking overtly non-Christian celebrations and using them to teach about God and His love for us in Christ. There is no reason we can't do the same! Even the name Halloween comes from All Hallows Eve, the name given to the night before All Hallows Day or as we usually call it, All Saints Day. The difference is where our focus lies. Is our focus on greed, getting all the candy, or other earthly stuff that we can? Or is our focus on celebrating life, fun, and good times with friends and family who are gifts from God?

The hymn verse noted above centers on the gift of God's Word – our great heritage. God's Word cannot be taken from us, especially if we have it locked away in our

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**God's Word
is our great heritage
And shall be ours
forever;
To spread its light
from age to age
Shall be our chief
endeavor.
Through life
it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant,
while worlds endure,
We keep
its teachings pure
Throughout all
generations.**

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MUSIC NOTES

Continued

heart. Do you have favorite Bible verses that provide special comfort or encouragement? That is God's Word, locked in your heart. Do you have a favorite hymn? Most of them are directly based on God's Word – another way to lock it away in your heart. So what does this hymn have to do with October's celebrations?

The key is in the second line: To spread its light from age to age Shall be our chief endeavor. October is a perfect month to talk about God's Word. At harvest themed events we have the perfect opportunity to express our admiration and gratitude for God's beautiful creation and His gifts of food, family, friends, and fun. At Halloween themed events we can ask friends if they know the history of the word Halloween and its emphasis on God's gifts to those who have gone before us and left us examples of the faith. In either case, a simple invitation to come to church and Bible class can easily follow. A simple invitation to "come and see" what church is all about – worship and Bible class is all it takes. The Holy Spirit will bless the whole process, even if we don't see any direct results.

What a wonderful month October is! What a wonderful month it will be! I encourage you to enjoy, to celebrate God's ongoing goodness, especially the gift of His Son and the gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation, and eternal life. Let's celebrate our heritage – God's Word. I'll see you in church and Bible class!

If you'd like to be a part of the music ministries of Grace, give me a call in the church office. We have openings for singers in the choir, or for soloists, instrumentalists, etc. We'll be glad to get you connected to the musical part of our ongoing celebration of the heritage we have in God's Word.

Serving Christ with you,

Larry D. Wooster

School News

We are talking as a faculty that it is time to prepare the progress reports for the mid-term of our first trimester. That seems pretty hard to believe that we have already reached that point of the 2009-2010 school year. The first Thursday and Friday of October will be parent-teacher conferences.

October is full of school activities. 7th grade will be going to Catalina for their annual outdoor education trip. The students will be taking the Fall achievement tests along with all the Lutheran schools in our Pacific Southwest District. It has been determined that using the results of the Fall testing is more beneficial to the students than testing in Spring.

We have a fun event that has developed over the past few years on Friday, October 16. The PTL and Room Parents put on a Quarter Dip Dinner. You buy tickets for a quarter each and go from room to room tasting lots of yummy food. Each sampling costs a quarter. It would be great if lots of the church families would join us.

Last Wednesday was the start of the Family Ministry Night. What a great turn out! There is a class for every age group. I hope you will all consider joining us.

Do you know what "scrip" is? If you do not know, you are probably in the majority. If I ask, however, do you know what gift cards are I'm much more certain most of you do know about that. Scrip is gift cards. We purchase them in advance for a discount and sell them for face value. All proceeds from this activity go into our unified church and school budget. If you shop Kohls or eat at Marie Calendars or get your books at Amazon.com, you could be buying gift cards from the school while helping to cover operating costs for our church and school. Look for someone selling scrip between church service and Bible Study time – especially on non-communion Sundays. We'll be out at table outside or in the church office to show you all about this.

Serving the Master Teacher,
Wanda Vandrey Principal

From Our Deaconess

Dear Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ,

It is Thursday afternoon and I have come from visits to the hospital of your fellow members. I had thought about writing to you on one of the saints that are commemorated this month. I choose St. James the Bishop of Jerusalem, St. James the Just, St. James the brother of Jesus (all the same person) which is celebrated on Friday October 23rd. St. James writes, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when ever you face trials of many kinds. . ." James 1:2 Is James saying take courage, be joyous you who suffer in the hospital. You whose face is in pain, or afraid, or confused this is pure joy you are having. "... because you know the testing of your faith brings perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking in anything." James 1:2,3 It is not only the sick that suffer and are being taught with this pure joy but also the family of the ill or hospitalized is learning. They are sitting at the side of a wife or brother or mother and worry that they will be left alone, or are in equal pain and sickness from long sleeplessness and difficult decisions.

We are human and we are sad when people are in pain, suffer, and are ill. We are especially unhappy when it happens to us personally but at the same time these Christian people I visit are persevering. They do know that God loves them. They are not in despair as those of the world. "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

Thank you God for St. James and the work you did though him and your words you allowed him to write. He suffered stoning at the hands of his Jewish brothers because he persevered in Your truth. May we at all times good and bad reflect the hope we have in our Lord and Savior. May we persevere.

Deaconess Nuckolls

Offering

Ending Sunday 8/23	7,631
Ending Sunday 8/30	7,214
Ending Sunday 9/6	14,083
Ending Sunday 9/13	6,938

Building Fund (BTBC)

Ending Sunday 8/23	155
Ending Sunday 8/30	70
Ending Sunday 9/6	160
Ending Sunday 9/13	320

Total as of 9/13 796,898

Attendance

Saturday 7/25	25
Sunday 7/26	175
Saturday 8/1	15
Sunday 8/2	159
Saturday 8/8	7
Sunday 8/9	152
Saturday 8/15	25
Sunday 8/16	193

Sat/Sun Average Attendance-July

2008	248
2009	188

Reformation Sunday

Reformation will be observed on Sunday, October 25th. Please plan to attend our Special Festival Service and Music.

Mite Sunday

Mite Sunday will be on Sunday, October 11th. Our goal is to collect \$1700 by 12/31/09. Please use your MITE BOX and bring it to the large box in the narthex or you may turn in to the church office. Pray for God to bless all the projects and our giving.

LANDSCAPING EFFORTS

Many thanks are expressed for the superb efforts on the part of a number of individuals volunteering their time to perform landscaping processes at Grace. As can be readily seen, the landscaping at Grace is looking great, especially the lawn areas. Each member of Grace should express their thanks to the individuals responsible for the maintenance of the landscaping here at Grace. The current individuals maintaining the lawn areas are Mike Morgan and Jacques Arnold. In the past other people have volunteered their services for weeding, lawn mowing, etc. These people include Ethel Schutte, Dan Burk, Albert Escamilla, Wayne & Connie Turner, and Gerry Starrett. My apologies if I have missed other names.



Dennis Klein
BOD member

Quarter Dip Dinner

Grace Lutheran School will be holding a Quarter Dip Dinner on Friday, October 16th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. here at Grace. Pre sale tickets will be on sale in the school office for 5 tickets for a \$1.00 or the night of the event 4 for \$1.00. Please watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

Pumpkin Festival!

Mark Friday, October 30th down on your calendar for our annual Grace Lutheran Pumpkin Festival. The festivities will begin with dinner being offered at 5:30 p.m. and "Trunk or Treating" at 7:00 p.m. Donations of candy are needed as well. You can drop off candy at the school or church office. Trunk or Treating are needed as well as some volunteers to help run some games, so come and join the food, fun and fellowship!. There will be lots of games, bounce houses, apple dunking and a cake walk. Bring your family for a grand time and don't forget to wear your costumes. Any questions, please call Kaylee Cox at 816-1895 or Tricia Colcord at 373-0161.



Annual Progressive Dinner

The Progressive Dinner will be here before we know it. It will be on Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 p.m. Would you like to offer your home for one of the courses? You don't have to do anything but decorate your home & provide water, punch or coffee. The 1st home is soup, the 2nd home is salad and the 3rd home is hearty appetizers. 20 people will be in your home at one time. We would like a large home for the last place with wonderful desserts. We all end up there for good fellowship & singing of carols. Mark your calendar for this fun event. Please call Arlene Klein if you are interested in opening your home for this event 943-4304.

PRAYER QUILTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER



Do you have a family member or friend in need of prayer? You can request a Prayer Quilt by completing a form from the Parish Hall bulletin board and turning it in to the church office. A quilt will be ready for prayers within a few weeks and given to you to deliver to your friend.

Prayers & Squares will meet on Monday October 12th and 26th from 9 to 11 AM in the Parish Hall.

News from the DCE

I would like to share with you another quote I came across recently that struck me as a Christian Educator (the C and E in DCE).

“It is not enough for [people] to simply learn and repeat these parts [the chief parts of the catechism] verbatim. The [people] should also attend preaching, especially at the time designated for Catechism [or Biblical instruction], so that they may hear it explained and may learn the meaning of every part. Then they will also be able to repeat what they have heard and give a good, correct answer when they are questioned, and thus the preaching will not be without benefit and fruit. The reason we take such care to preach on the Catechism [and Christian doctrine] frequently is to impress it upon [people], not in a lofty and learned manner but briefly and very simple, so that it may penetrate deeply into their minds and remain fixed in their memories.”



The above quote comes from the preface to the Large Catechism. Proverbs 22:5 & 6 state, “Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards [their] soul will keep far from them. Train up a child in the way [they] should go; even when [they] is old [they] will not depart from it.”

We live in a world filled with all kinds of emotional, physical and spiritual snares and thorns. Though we are Christian (saints), we are also crooked (sinners). We each face struggles on a daily basis that test our faith in Christ as our Savior. We are all a child in some sense of the word. We all have something to learn and we can all learn and grow more in the Baptismal faith we’ve been graciously given by the Holy Spirit.

We each have an opportunity, probably; on a daily basis to share our faith with someone who is either struggling with their faith or with someone who doesn’t have a saving faith in Jesus Christ. By being regularly involved and engaged in WORSHIP and BIBLE CLASS/STUDY, we will be better able “to repeat what we have heard and give a good, correct answer when we are questioned.”

We are in the midst of a whole lot of change and transition. Change and transition is happening not only in Grace Lutheran Church, but also in our city and nation! People are seeking and searching for hope and strength and, sadly, sometimes they (we) find strength and hope in things that fail or will fail.

Take the opportunities provided by the dedicated Bible study teachers/leaders to learn and grow more in your Christian faith. We have opportunities on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. These opportunities are a great way to strengthen your faith and secure the hope you have in our eternal life in heaven. Because your faith is strengthened and your hope secure, you are therefore, able to share the strength and hope you have with those who are seeking. This strength and hope we have is why we gather on Sunday mornings! During worship, we worship our Heavenly Father who FREELY gives us strength and hope through His Son Jesus Christ and who is with us, daily, through His Holy Spirit.

Read, study, pray and meditate on Matthew 7:7-11.

Your fellow servant in Christ,
Jim Roberts - DCE



Cookies for Friends

Autumn is the perfect time of the year to sow kindness and reap a "harvest" full of friendships. Make this special treat to share with someone.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1½ cups diced, roasted almonds
- 1 cup chocolate pieces
- Raffia or fall-colored ribbon (optional)

What you do:

1. Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
2. Beat in egg, pumpkin and vanilla.
3. In separate bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, nutmeg and cinnamon.
4. Add dry mix to creamed mixture.
5. Add almonds and chocolate pieces; mix thoroughly.
6. Drop by teaspoons onto well-greased cookie sheets.
7. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until lightly browned.
8. Cool on racks. Makes about six dozen.
9. Stack two cookies on top of each other. Then tie them like a present with the raffia or ribbon. Give the cookies to friends and family to thank them for their friendship.

Autumn brings many visible changes. God makes lots of foods and grains ready for harvest. He also tells us that if we sow in peace, we, too, can raise a harvest.

Find and circle the bold (dark) words from James 3:17-18, NIV.

"But the **WISDOM** that comes from **HEAVEN** is first of all **PURE**; then **PEACELOVING**, **CONSIDERATE**, **SUBMISSIVE**, full of **MERCY** and **GOOD FRUIT**, **IMPARTIAL** and **SINCERE**. **PEACEMAKERS** who **SOW** in **PEACE** raise a **HARVEST** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

C	S	P	E	A	C	E	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
O	U	E	U	X	W	C	E	Y	T	P	R	W	R
N	B	A	U	L	T	J	C	O	R	E	I	I	U
S	M	C	P	R	X	K	F	W	I	A	G	S	I
I	I	E	M	E	R	C	Y	I	I	C	H	D	T
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G	I	P	U	R	E	S	O	Y	C	E	S	E	F



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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Vacant
Assistant Pastor/Church Planter	Todd Niebling
Music Director	Larry Wooster
Youth Director	Jim Roberts
Church Secretary	Teri Morgan

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE

Principal	Wanda Vandrey
School Secretary	Christine Calvert

CHURCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Ken Szalai
Vice President	Scott Smith
Treasurer	Dennis Klein
Recording Secretary	Marge Barckholtz
Member at Large	Gary Vandrey
Council of Elders	Leo Thibault

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